

# THE ORTHODOX MESSENGER

January 2019, Vol. 27, Issue 1

## FEAST OF THEOPHANY ~ January 6

*When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest;  
for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son;  
and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His Word.  
O Christ, our God, Who hast revealed Thyself, and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.*

Troparion of Theophany

THE GREEK philosopher Heraclitus is quoted by Plato as saying, “You cannot step twice into the same river.” This is because, for Heraclitus, the world is in a constant state of change and flux. The water of the river is replaced by other water, and so no river is truly the same, and therefore cannot be entered twice. This view is very much in line with our modern sentiment: the naming of the river is an arbitrary, accidental quality of the water that flows in it. The water is a term that grossly simplifies the molecular, impermanent compound made from hydrogen and oxygen, but for the Orthodox Christian, there is nothing arbitrary about water. It was created by God and blessed in the very beginning by the movement of the Spirit over it. It was created as a foundation of all of life—plants and animals. It is the cleansing of a world by flood of the world that forgot God. It is the reminder in the wilderness of God’s sustaining faithfulness to Israel. It is the water of the Jordan that maps out the entrance of the Promised Land, and it is the water of the Jordan in which each of us is baptized into and with Christ.

We are accustomed to thinking that language marks out reality, that man is the measure of all things, and so shapes the world by his perceptions. But, it is the other

way around: God’s creation pushes in on us, draws us out of our heads and away from ideas so that we can, as the Psalmist writes, “...taste and see that the Lord is good.” It is the water on our faces and lips, the bread that we eat, the wine that we drink, the light by which our homes and porches are lit. All of these are part of the bodily, incarnate expression of God’s love. All of these things find their true meaning and existence in Christ. We drink and we wash because Christ is the water of life. The feast of Theophany joyously celebrates that we do not worship a God of ideas. We are not a “religious people,” but, rather, we live in a world enlightened by the life of the Son of God. All water is set aright with Christ’s baptism, and we can and do enter into the Jordan, through baptism and through the blessing of the water. With Christ, we enter into the same river twice, and again. —*Garret Paul Hamner*

### Services for Theophany

*Friday, January 4, 9 AM, Royal Hours*

*Saturday, January 5, 5 PM, Vespers & Matins*

*Sunday, January 6, Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water*

## FEAST OF ST. SERAPHIM ~ January 2

THE FEAST OF THE REPOSE of St. Seraphim of Sarov is on January 2. Festivities begin with Great Vespers and an Akathist to St. Seraphim on Tuesday, January 1 at 5 PM. We will greet both Archbishop Benjamin and Bishop Daniel the next morning, January 2, at 9:30 AM. Timothy Hopkins will be tonsured a Reader for our Church just before the Liturgy begins. All are invited to a festive meal following the service.

## VISIT OF THE ICON OF ST. ANNA

ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, Abbot Sergius of the Monastery of St. Tikhon in Pennsylvania, will bring the icon of St. Anna to us for veneration. **The Icon will be brought into the Cathedral at 6:30, and an Akathist to her will be immediately sung.** This icon was painted in 1988 and blessed in Jerusalem at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. It was



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The Rector, Fr. Lawrence Margitich, may be reached at the Parish office phone, or at [Lmargitich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Lmargitich@sbcglobal.net).

### Parish Contacts

Bobbi Griovski, Parish Secretary	584-9491
Fr. John Schettig	318-1559
Fr. Nicholas Carr	318-5391
Serge Anderson, Parish Council Warden	291-7452
Martin Thong, Treasurer	888-7888
Bonnie Alexander, Recording Secretary	338-4962
Eleni Rose, Agape Meal Coordinator	480-6106
Debbie Buse, Hall Event Manager	696-4986

## PROSPHORA OFFERINGS

SINCE THE BEGINNING of the Church, before each Liturgy the faithful would bring gifts of money, food, bread and wine to be used by the Church and for distribution to the poor. Even so today, a portion of the offered bread and wine is be used for the Eucharist, and prayers are offered on behalf of those who give these offerings and for those who have reposed in the Lord. As an expansion of this offering, before the Liturgy, small “prospora” bread loaves are brought into the Altar with a list of names of those living and departed. The priests pray for each person by name, taking out a small particle of the bread from each loaf and placing it on the plate (diskos) holding the Eucharistic bread. Pastoral advice: please list the names of those who are in your “spiritual family” so to say, rather than every person you know. After Holy Communion those particles, which represent each person, are placed into the Chalice and mingled with the Body and Blood. In doing this, we refer all things to God, the Creator and Fashioner, and give thanks to Him for all things. The witness of the saints and the Tradition is that the prayers offered before the Liturgy are indeed very powerful. Those who would like their prayer lists to be in the Altar for each Sunday Liturgy are asked to make arrangements at the candle desk. —Fr. Lawrence


brought to the parish of “Our Lady of Joy of All Who Sorrow” in Philadelphia, PA., and on Mother’s Day of 2004 began to stream myrrh. Since 2012 the Icon has been at St. Tikhon’s Monastery, and exudes a wonderful heavenly fragrance, but no longer streams myrrh. However, St. Anna continues to work many miracles through this icon for those who approach with faith, particularly couples having difficulty conceiving children. For more information about this icon, and a copy of the Akathist, please see the link:

<https://www.sttikhonsmonastery.org/stanna.html>

Because Women Deserve Better than Abortion.™


# WALK for LIFE WEST COAST

15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL



Saturday, January 26 • CIVIC CENTER PLAZA • San Francisco

Rally: 12:30 PM  
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA  
Info Faire: 11:00 AM  
Saturday, January 26, 2019



Rally starts at Civic Center Plaza, walking down Market Street (2 miles). Ends at Embarcadero Plaza/Ferry Building.  
BART stations at both locations. Ample parking.

Register and info:  
415/658-1793 | email: [info@WalkforLifeWC.com](mailto:info@WalkforLifeWC.com) **WalkforLifeWC.com**

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Those interested in going to SF for the “WALK” please speak with Fr. Lawrence or Deacon John. If there is sufficient interest, then a stretch van will be rented for transport. In that case, we need a volunteer to rent and drive the van (the cost will be covered) and stay with the vehicle during the day.

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES:** At Vespers we sing hymns for the saint or feast celebrated on the following day (Vespers begins the new day, liturgically speaking). On New Year's Eve we will have Vespers at 5 PM for the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ and St. Basil the Great, Jan. 1. Of course, we will include prayers asking God's help, guidance and forgiveness as we begin the new civil year. On January 1 we will have the Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM, in honor of this Feast of the Lord and St. Basil, and once again pray that the Lord sends us blessings for the new year. Start the New Year right by praying at these Divine Services.
- **SUNDAY, JANUARY 6th** is the Great Feast of Theophany (Epiphany) which commemorates the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan, and the revelation of the Holy Trinity. The prayers for the Great Blessing of Water will begin immediately after the Liturgy that day—so bring a container with you to take Holy Water home.
- **HOUSE BLESSINGS:** The Candle Desk has the "Master List of House Blessings." Blessings begin on afternoon of January 6. Dates, times and names are listed when a priest will come to bless your home. If the time and day scheduled for your home is not convenient, simply cross your name off the list and other arrangements can be made. There are a number of parish homes that have never been blessed, oddly enough, and I hope to change that this year with your cooperation. We Christians are engaged in a struggle to reclaim fallen nature for the Kingdom of God, so the Church humbly reaches out to reclaim a bit here and a bit there for the glory of God, casting out demonic influence, and bringing the blessing of the Jordan River to each homes. What more important place to bless and to offer to the Kingdom of God?
- **ANGELS UNAWARES:** On the first Thursday of the month our parish welcomes guests from the Redwood Gospel Mission, hosting about twenty or so needy folks for dinner and providing a place to sleep for the night. Guests will arrive about 6 PM, departure about 6:30 AM the next morning. Michael and Rachel Dovey are the coordinators for the program this year. Volunteers are needed. If you have questions, call Michael or Rachel Dovey at (707) 799-4117. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them who suffer adversity..." (Hebrews 13)
- **THE REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK** is held on the second Wednesday each month. Volunteers, please arrive around 5 PM to help set up. This Food Bank is an important way in which our parish does outreach to the community. Come and participate in this worthy endeavor.
- **PIROSHKI PREP** will take place Jan. 16–19. There will be a sign up list for helping out posted in the Narthex and the Parish Hall.
- **THE SENIOR AND RETIRED LUNCH** fellowship will meet this month on Thursday, January 17, the Feast of St. Anthony the Great.
- **COMMENT ON CHURCH ETIQUETTE:** What are the parishioners to do when they see the deacon and/or priest are walking through the church incensing the icons? They continue to face toward the Holy Altar and pray. It may seem somehow more "polite" to turn towards the deacon as he is censing, but there's no reason to do so. In some parishes the people do indeed turn with the deacons as they cense, but we don't have that practice. —Fr. Lawrence
- **MANY YEARS AND GOD'S BLESSING** for those who became catechumens on Sunday, December 23: Karla, David, James, and Aaron and Alejandra and their children Aaron, Xavier, Paloma, Celeste and Belen (Harriette has been a catechumen already for many months). There are also a number of inquirers who are preparing themselves for the catechumenate. Please keep them all in your prayers.
- **THE KONEVETS Male Liturgical and Folk Choir** will be visiting our parish on Saturday, February 23 for Vespers at 5 PM and a concert in the Hall (with refreshments) at 6:30 PM. Tickets will be available soon.
- **PARISH ANNUAL MEETING:** As always, our Annual Meeting takes place on the first Sunday of February, this year, February 3, immediately after the Divine Liturgy. We will elect five new members to the Parish Council. Please send names of possible candidates (who agree to run) to Fr. Lawrence. We will also approve of the 2019 budget, discuss important parish issues and received reports from various ministries.
- **PLEDGE BOOKLETS** are here: if you are interested in having a book of pledge/offering envelopes for each week of the year, see Martin Thong our treasurer. The booklets are a convenient way to remember to bring your weekly offering each week to the Divine Liturgy. Alternatively, the parish also has "Giving by Text Message" at 707-701-5052.
- **THE PARISH MEN'S GROUP** is re-grouping" with a breakfast on Saturday, Jan. 19 at 8 AM, at the Happy Hen on Santa Rosa Ave. See Fr. Nicholas if you have questions.

# PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>31</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Vespers for St. Basil and Circumcision of Christ</li> </ul>	<b>1 – St. Basil Day</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy, Prayers for the New Year</li> <li>• 5 PM, Vespers and Akathist for Feast of St. Seraphim</li> </ul>	<b>2 – St. Seraphim Day</b>  <i>NO EAST</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM, Greeting of Archb Benjamin and Bp Daniel, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• Agape Meal</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Angels Unawares Meal</li> </ul>	<b>4 - Prefeast of Theophany</b>  <i>NO EAST</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Royal Hours for Theophany</li> </ul>	<b>5</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Vespers and Matins for Theophany</li> </ul>
<b>6 – Theophany</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water</li> <li>• Noon, <b>Agape Meal</b></li> <li>• <b>House Blessings</b></li> </ul>	<b>7</b>  	<b>8</b>  	<b>9</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank</li> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>	<b>10</b>  	<b>11</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:30 PM, Visit of the Icon of St. Anna, and Akathist*</li> </ul>	<b>12</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>
<b>13 – St Hilary of Portiers</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:40 AM, Matins</li> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:45 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> <li>• 3 PM, <i>Wedding</i></li> </ul>	<b>14</b>  	<b>15</b>  	<b>16</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 AM, Piroshki Prep</li> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers, Potluck and Talk on the Letters of the Deaconess St. Olympia</li> </ul>	<b>17</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piroshki Prep during the day</li> <li>• Noon, Senior Lunch</li> </ul>	<b>18</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piroshki Prep during the day</li> </ul>	<b>19</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Men's Group Breakfast at Happy Hen</li> <li>• Piroshki Prep</li> <li>• 5 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>
<b>20 – St. Evthimios</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Baptism of Anthony Aftim (No Matins)</li> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:45 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> </ul>	<b>21</b>  	<b>22</b>  	<b>23</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers, Potluck and Talk on the Letters of St. Olympia</li> </ul>	<b>24</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, St. Xenia of Petersburg</li> </ul>	<b>25</b>  	<b>26</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Noon, Walk for Life in San Francisco, van leaving here at 9:30 AM*</i></li> <li>• 5 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>
<b>27 – St. John Chrysostom</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:40 AM, Matins</li> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:45 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> <li>• 1 PM, Teacher Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>28</b>  	<b>29</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>	<b>30</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, Three Holy Hierarchs</li> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers, Potluck and Talk on the Letters of St. Olympia</li> </ul>	<b>31</b>  	<b>FEBRUARY 1</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:15 PM, Vigil for the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple</li> </ul>	<b>2 – Meeting of the Lord</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 5 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>

\* The Icon of St. Anna will be brought here by Abbot Sergius of St. Tikhon's Monastery in PA. Jan. 11 at 6:30 PM.

\* Those interesting in going to the "Walk for Life" in SF on 1/26, please see Fr. Lawrence to reserve a spot in a stretch van.

• The Parish ANNUAL MEETING will take place on Sunday, February 3, immediately after the Divine Liturgy